

Filed for intro on 05/16/2001

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 320

By Henry

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of Reverend John Richard Allison of Nashville.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Reverend John Richard "Dick" Allison; and

WHEREAS, An exemplary public servant and consummate professional, Dick Allison worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities, serving the United Methodist Church in India from 1949 to 1966 and then serving as the minister of congregations in Nashville and surrounding counties until his retirement in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Allison preached at Ridgetop Highland Chapel Union and then at Sixty First Avenue, Barth-Vernon, Crowley and Saint Paul United Methodist Churches simultaneously from 1967 to 1972; he then pastored at East End United Methodist Church, Martin's Chapel, Mount Zion, and Belmont United Methodist Churches; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Reverend Allison also served with distinction as the Chaplain at the Tennessee State Prison for Women; he assisted in the development of the Heads Up Child Developmental Center, the Rochelle Center, the United Methodist Urban Ministries, the Community Care Fellowship, Homeplace Inc., and the Edgehill Community Garden; he served on the Tennessee Children's Commission, and the Board of Pardons & Paroles; and Reverend

Allison was Lamar Alexander's Interdepartmental Liaison between the Departments of Correction, Education, Mental Health and Mental Retardation, and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, Educated at Donelson Elementary and Chapel Hill High Schools, Reverend Allison became licensed to preach at seventeen, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy at Birmingham Southern in 1949; and then promptly set sail to India as an Agricultural Extension Agent for the Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, In 1958, Reverend Allison entered Vanderbilt University Divinity School, where he served as President of the Divinity School Student Body his Senior year and was a Lilly Foundation Scholar, earning his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1961; and

WHEREAS, An outspoken civil rights activist, Mr. Allison participated in the sit-ins by African Americans at the Woolworth lunch counters in Nashville, risking the estrangement of those congregations hesitant to engage a staunch defender of civil rights as their pastor; a fierce advocate for those who could not be an advocate for themselves, Reverend Allison sought to find a way for society and the church to value all citizens equally; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Allison served with acumen and alacrity in all of his chosen endeavors with the United Methodist Church, unfailingly earning the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work, and his dedicated service to God and humanity; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Allison was also deeply devoted to his family, and he endeavored to always remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Allison enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Margaret McGowin, and was the proud parent of Nan Allison, Susan Greer, Jessie Allison, and Sarah Lancaster; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Allison is also survived by his sister, Nan Bates; his brothers, Jim and Harvey Allison; and his grandchildren, Allison and James Greer; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Allison leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Reverend John Richard Allison, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his meritorious service as a minister of the United Methodist Church and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage, conviction and compassion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Reverend Allison.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.